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The Boston Globe · Sun, May 29, 1955 · Page 9
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WAKEFIELD'S INTER-FAITH MEMORIAL—(top panel)—Two lions supporting the Ten Commandments, and three hands, to represent the three faiths, holding aloft a torch, symbolic of the light religion casts upon the world. (Lower panel)—A marker, in the form of an open book, displaying two pages recounting on one the story of the Four Chaplains' heroism and on the other, their names.

Wakefield to Honor Four Chaplains

By LEO SHAPIRO

A special feature of Wakefield's Memorial Day observance tomorrow will be the dedication of an inter-faith memorial in honor of the four chaplains, clergymen of three faiths, who died heroes' deaths in the torpedoing of the troopship Dorchester, Feb. 3, 1943, off the coast of Labrador.

The memorial plaque, which stresses the love of man for man, and is the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Leavitt, will be dedicated by Temple Emmanuel. Dr. Leavitt is president of the temple and Mrs. Leavitt is very active in it.

The four chaplains made headlines across the nation when they gave their own life jackets to men without them, and chose to remain aboard the vessel, locked arm in arm. Two of the clergymen were ministers, one was a priest, and the fourth was a rabbi.

The exercises will be held following the traditional community Memorial Day parade and will be attended by relatives of the four chaplains as special guests. The chaplains were Rev. George Lansing Fox, Rabbi Alexander David Goode, Rev. Clark Vandersall Poling and Rev. Fr. John Patrick Washington.

Clergymen of three faiths, representatives of veterans' groups, and state and local officials will participate in the program.

Speakers include Congressman Torbert H. Macdonald, Atty. Gen. George Fingold, representing Gov. Herter; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Timothy F. O'Leary, archdiocesan superintendent of schools; Rabbi Herman H. Rubenovitz, honorary president, Rabbinical Association of Greater Boston; Rev. H. Glenn Payne, president of the Wakefield Ministers' Association; Dr. Myer S. Baer, rabbi of Temple Emmanuel, and Rev. Wm. A. DeWolfe, president of the Wakefield Council of Churches.

Harry Denning, chairman of the Board of Selectmen; Robert G. Reed, executive editor of the Wakefield Daily Item, and William J. Lee, town counsel and moderator, will represent the town.

John Heningar, president of the Wakefield Allied Veterans' Council, will speak in behalf of the veterans. A gun salute will be fired by a detail in charge of George Doucette, V. F. W. Post, No. 2106. Sounding of taps will follow.

Wakefield's colorful Red Men's Band will participate. Other music will include organ selections by Stephen Ortlip of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, and vocal selections by Cantor Frank Ruben, accompanied by Dr. Robert Weiss.

Harold G. Blank is chairman of arrangements and Melvin J. Levine will serve as master of ceremonies.

Advertisement

Floor Tests Prove 'Beacon Wax' Is the Biggest Wax Buy

A series of housewives, as well as laboratory floor wax tests prove 'Beacon Wax' the winner. 'Beacon' outshines and outlasts other brands of wax. This makes 'Beacon' the biggest floor wax buy.

Washington Memo

Officials Think Cease-Fire Exists in Formosa Strait

★ ★ ★

Massive Task of Preparing for Big 4 Conference Is On

WASHINGTON, May 27—Recent Disclosures of Soviet air power are as hot as they look and causing great anxiety throughout the government.

There's a clear attempt to play them down, but that doesn't remove the anxiety felt by some top experts. They're worried.

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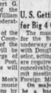
It's now believed that for all practical purposes a cease-fire in the Formosa Strait already exists. Officials aren't talking much about it, but that's the way they feel.



Chou En-lai, of course, has promised nothing. He's maintained both his regime's claim to Formosa and its freedom of action.

But he's not moving against the islands, as some anticipated six weeks ago.

The situation may be temporary, but informed opinion holds that the longer it lasts the harder it will be for Chinese Communists to break.

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U. S. Getting Ready for Big 4 Conference

The massive task of preparing for the Big Four conference is underway at the State Department with Douglas MacArthur II, counselor, acting as coordinator. Papers are required on every subject that conceivably could arise at a summit meeting or at a subsequent Foreign Ministers conference.

On major subjects there must be a background information paper and what's called a "position" paper outlining American policy.

These papers will be studied and reviewed by a special board set up on the assistant secretary level. Final, critical decisions on the American position will be up to President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

American, British and French views will be aligned at a "working level" discussion among office directors shortly before the big conference. Further, the Western Foreign Ministers will consult on policy at the United Nations commemoration session in San Francisco, June 20 to 26.

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Russian Delay Timed to Help Laborites?

Here's the judgment of one shrewd observer, analyzing (1) why the Russians delayed so long their reply to the West's proposal for four-power talks and (2) why Pravda assailed details of the Western plan.

The Russians, he says, want a conference "at the summit." But, just as timing of the West's invitation aided the Conservatives in the British election, so a Soviet delay and the attitude of Pravda were designed to aid the Laborites.

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Marine School Adds to Mrs. Hobby's Troubles

Mrs. Hobby's Department of Health, Education and Welfare is headed for another row in Congress this week—this time over scheduled closing of the High School for Children of Marines at Quantico, Va.

HEW's office of Education has ordered it closed in June because other facilities are available nearby. The Marines are furious, especially Negro Marines, whose children would have to enter segregated Virginia schools. Pro-Marine Congressmen have tried to persuade HEW to change its mind, but the department insists the law allows no alternative.

So the House will be asked to give the Defense Department veto power over the closing of schools on military installations.

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Democrats Woo Women, Cite Electorate Posts

The Democratic National Committee, its eye on the female vote next year, boasts that there are now 152 Democratic women—more than ever before—in elective offices at the national, state and territorial levels of government.

Nine are in Congress, 122 in legislatures and 20 in high elective posts in state governments. Only six states have none. They are Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

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Frelinghuysen New Target of Old Guard Republicans

The "Old Guard" Republican group which fought Senator Clifford P. Case of New Jersey last year because he was "too liberal," now has a new target. He is Representative Peter Frelinghuysen Jr. of the 5th District, a devoted "Eisenhower Republican" and one of the most respected young members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation.

The "Old Guarders" are attacking him in mimeographed letters being sent throughout the state, just as they did Senator Case.

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Public Relations Men Most Unenvied

Most unenvied government public relations men in Washington are those concerned with the polio vaccine situation. They have to cope around the clock with baffled news reporters for whom they can obtain few clear answers. Yet they know each fuzzy answer multiplies the questions to come.

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Democratic Delegate Rule Cramps Bay State

Democratic leaders hope to have at least 25 percent fewer delegates at the 1956 National Convention in Chicago than they had in 1952. At the last convention 1662 delegates shared 1230 votes. Plans are to forbid fractional voting next year.

Thus Massachusetts, which split its 36 votes among 72 delegates in 1952, will be permitted only as many delegates as it has votes.

★ ★ ★

Hall Counting on Farm Vote

Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall says he's pleased by what he found in a speech-making tour of Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota. Theme of practically every talk was the Administration's farm program—and in each case, Hall says, "the reaction was good."

The Republican chairman is convinced now that "meeting the farm issue head-on" and not being apologetic about it is the tactic that will win most farm votes for his party.

The Evening Globe Will Not Be Published Tomorrow Evening

Be sure to read the Store Advertisements in the Morning Globe, tomorrow, Monday, May 30, 1955, Memorial Day.

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3 Surveyors Die as Sea Tips Punt Off Yarmouth, Me.

YARMOUTH, Me., May 28—Three young bridge surveyors perished today after their small punt capsized in the choppy water of Casco Bay, 500 feet from Cousin's Island.

A fourth member of the surveying crew escaped by clinging to the overturned craft.

Drowned were:

ELROY GROSS, 29, of Waldoboro.

ROBERT E. COBB, 24, of Brunswick.

ARTHUR E. BERRY, 24, of Brunswick.

John A. Greenlaw, 26, of Bath, sole survivor of the morning tragedy, was rescued by Arthur Hodgkins, 55, Portland truck driver who was digging clams on his day off.

Gross' body was recovered three hours later by Deputy Sheriff Earl Chase of Cumberland County.

Coast Guardsmen and county officials, aided by a score of volunteer fishermen, continued grappling operations until dark tonight.

Poor Swimmer Saved

The men were employed by Wright and Pierce of Brunswick, a surveying contractor working on the new bridge which will connect the mainland with Cousin's Island, a half mile offshore.

County Atty. Frederick Sturgis said the quartet left for the island in a 14-foot outboard motorboat at 8:15 this morning.

Greenlaw said they had proceeded "only a little distance" when the craft began to ship water in the rough seas.

About 500 feet from their destination, a heavy sea suddenly swamped the boat, causing it to capsize.

Gross, Cobb and Berry, though clad in heavy clothing and hip-high rubber boots, began to swim for the island shore.

Greenlaw, a poor swimmer, chose to cling to the hull of the overturned punt.

Berry and Cobb sank almost immediately, but Gross—a strong swimmer—continued on until he had almost reached the shore.

"I saw him go down just as he neared the beach. Had he stood up and walked, I think he might have made it," Greenlaw said later.

Broken Oar Balks Rescue

Hodgkins, off-duty Portland truck driver who was digging clams on the island shore, saw the craft capsize and tried to row a nearby skiff to their aid, but was forced to paddle back to the island when one of his oars was broken by the strong current.

Hodgkins finally located another oar and rescued the near-exhausted Greenlaw. The latter declined treatment at Eastern Maine General Hospital and returned to his home in Bath.

Gross leaves his parents and a sister, Mrs. Marjorie Bragg of Farmington. He was a graduate of Dover-Foxcroft Academy and a World War II veteran of the Artillery Corps.

Berry is survived by a wife, Vanita, and two children, Susan, 4, and Kenneth, 2.

Cobb also leaves a wife, Mary, and two small sons, Robert Jr., 2, and Michael W., 10 months.

Scottish Train Crash Kills Three

WORMIT, Scotland, May 28 (AP)—The engine and first coach of a train carrying 500 persons on a Sunday school outing leaped onto a station platform today, killing two men and a boy. Another man and a boy were reported missing. At least 20 persons were injured.

Afoot in Middlesex—XV

Death Also Comes to "Lady of Caskets"

(Last of four stories about Mrs. France B. Hiller, famous in her day as "the lady of the caskets.")

By WILLARD de LUE

WILMINGTON—After the death of her husband in 1888, and his burial in regal style, with priceless carved casket and great catafalque, after that came quiet years for the dynamic Mrs. Hiller.

She continued her cranberry-growing business, and for a time tried to make a go of the New England Medical Institute and its panacea pills, in Boston. Shortly that languished, and later was sold.

Work on the coffins went on to completion. Her own casket was carved with intricate patterns. The two massive sarcophagi—fit for the burial of a pharaoh—came slowly to the fullness of their rich beauty.

One was for her husband; it had not been ready when death had called him.

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Death was on her mind, as it had been for years, but she thought of it without fear. She was making ready her burial gown, a cerement that was to be fit for the rare casket that was to receive it.

So much was death on her mind that on one occasion, it was told, she sent a letter to the Globe, announcing her own death.

But Wilmington had become accustomed to Mrs. Hiller's funerary preparations. Townfolk talked, but it was repetitious. There was nothing new.

That is, there was nothing new until she announced in the Spring of 1893 that she was going to marry again.

• • •

Peter Surrette was born in Eel Brook, near Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, of the old Acadian stock that still cherishes its rich cultural heritage in the nearby villages along the "French Shore" of St. Mary's Bay. A number of French-speaking families had come to this part of Massachusetts. Peter arrived in the late 80's, worked for a time cutting ice at Concord, and got a job in Mrs. Hiller's cranberry bog about 1890.

He was a likeable young man, but handicapped by a limited command of English. He is still a likeable man, though no longer a young one; still a familiar figure here in Wilmington town.

Mrs. Hiller's announcement of her impending marriage, together with the news that Peter, who had become her coachman, had legally adopted the name Henry Hiller, stirred the town once again, and became front page news.

They were twice wed—once at what they supposed was a civil ceremony in Boston, March 16, 1893, which was in fact performed by Rev. Fred C. Allen of 145 West Newton st.; and again, after a special dispensation had been recieved from Archbishop Williams, in the little Catholic chapel of St. Thomas, in this village.

Again crowds of the curious poured in, but the throng at the wedding ceremony conducted itself with decorum.

Came more quiet years. The Hillers made a long visit to Florida, and took other trips. The cranberry business went on.

And then in the morning of May 18, 1900, Mrs. France B. Hiller died.

★ ★ ★

Now the caskets came forth from a special casket-house in which they had reposed since their completion at the hands of master-carver Macgregor. There was the heavy small casket in which Mrs. Hiller's body would repose, and the two tremendous outer sarcophagi.

Dr. Henry Hiller had been waiting 12 years for his, and now, at last, the tomb would be unsealed.

Mrs. Hiller had made her funeral arrangements at the time of Dr. Hiller's death. Another great catafalque was prepared. Her famed burial-gown was brought out.

It was made of the costliest of white corded silk, was embroidered with more than 5000 English daisies (so the accounts said) and was further decked with 500 yards of hand-made silk lace.

Its side panels were of white surah silk, and its cost—fabulous!

Guesses ran to $30,000, which was nonsense, but talk of big money always went with any mention of Mrs. Hiller.

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At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of May 22, 1900, the side door of the Hiller house was thrown open, and then for hours a stream of friends, neighbors and curious strangers moved through the gold-and-blue parlor in which Mrs. Hiller lay in her casket, and the casket lay on the floor. It was too heavy for ordinary props to support.

The crowds grew as street cars continued to come into town, and carriages filled the streets and bicycles arrived in swarms.

The people acted as if they were attending a circus—laughing and joking, passing comments as they filed past the "lady of the caskets," and camera fiends making pictures of her.

The same disgraceful scenes were enacted when the door was opened again next morning.

"This is the most humiliating thing I've ever seen; I'm sorry I'm human," one man remarked.

When the doors were closed at 9:15 late-comers were indignant!

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As at Dr. Henry Hiller's funeral the carved casket had to be inched out through a window and was with great difficulty placed on the catafalque. The funeral car was to have been identical with that on which Dr. Hiller was borne to the grave, but had to be reduced in height because of the trolley wires that had come to town.

And there was another difference. Mrs. Hiller had become a Catholic; and though the crowd filled every inch of the little chapel in Church st. and an overflow gathered outside, there was quiet and decorum as a solemn high mass of requiem was sung.

On then, to the tomb! The face of a great mound of earth that covered it had been dug away, and the door exposed. First, Dr. Hiller's casket was to be placed in his sarcophagus, which had not been ready at his death.

But the sarcophagus wouldn't go through the door, so part of the brick wall had to be torn down. Then it was found that massive brass feet which were to keep the sarcophagus off the floor couldn't be used because the tomb's roof wasn't high enough.

These details had been cared for before Mrs. Hiller's funeral procession reached the cemetery. The crowds stood around gaping and gabbing; babies cried and children laughed; the people climbed the sides of the burial mound to see what was to be seen.

It was soon over, and Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Henry Hiller rested side by side in their grand burial cases (the brass feet tossed in beside them); the crowd moved away; bicycle bells jangled, street-car conductors on the "specials" lined up nearby called out their "all aboards," and there was a clattering of horses hoofs.

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Everyone was talking about the wonderful caskets . . . and the grand mausoleum that some day would be built to receive them. And everyone was speculating about the Hiller wealth.

"She's worth millions," some said.

"She didn't leave a cent," said others.

Even before the funeral a will had been filed, which included Yale College, the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital, the City Hospital, and the Hospital Cottages for Children among its beneficiaries.

Her surviving husband, Henry Hiller 2d, was to receive for life half the income from the residue of her estate. Her daughter, Mrs. Hill, was to get $10.

Then a later will was filed—and a contest began. Yale wasn't going to give up its possible millions.

The new will, after making a few small bequests (and raising Mrs. Hill's to $25), divided the estate between Henry Hiller 2d and Mrs. Hill's sister, Mrs. Mary A. Jeens, in England.

Eminent legal counsel filed appearances, but enthusiasm waned when appraisers filed a report.

Mrs. France Breeraee Hiller had died possessed of $11,240 in personal property, and real estate worth an estimated $31,820.

When bills were paid, bequests cared for, there wasn't much left for either Mr. Hiller 2d or Mrs. Jeens.

In after years, Hiller was a crossing tender here for the B. & M., and later worked for the town.

The mound of the tomb deteriorated from erosion, and no fund for its maintenance was available. With Hiller's permission it was removed 20 years ago, and a new tomb was built below ground-level for the precious caskets.

NEXT—A lock-house of Middlesex Canal days.

MRS. FRANCE B. HILLER

4 Surviving Dionne Quints Turn 21; to Share Million

CALLANTER, Ont., May 28 (AP)—The four living Dionne Quintuplets turned 21 today and celebrated at a family reunion. The day was marked by steps to divide up nearly $1,000,000 in trust funds.

Joining their parents Mr. and Mrs. Oliva Dionne, and their sister Marie at the family home here. The three other Quints arrived during the night from Montreal where Yvonne and Cecile are training to be nurses and Annette is studying to be a piano teacher.

Sister Emilie, fifth of the Quints born into world fame, died last August. The surviving sisters asked that the coming-of-age celebration be a quiet one because of her death.

The money gained from newspaper photo and movie rights, advertising contracts and endorsements totals just under $1,000,000. The four sisters figure to share about $197,000 each, plus a share of the dead sister's portion, which is to be divided among 14 members of the Dionne family.

Investments made by their father, who is administrator of their business affairs, have helped increase the fund, held until now by the Ontario Supreme Court. It will take a half year to transfer the money.

Friends of the Dionne family expect the girls will leave their money invested under trust direction of their father. They have shown no desire to spend any large amount.

To Visit Emilie's Grave

The main gift the famous parents gave their famous daughters for the birthday reunion was a high-fidelity record player. A family dinner tonight and a mass in the Queen Mary Monastery tomorrow, followed by a visit to Emilie's grave in Corbeil Cemetery, were on the reunion program.

It was in a farmhouse near Corbeil, about eight miles southeast of here, that the girls were born.

After the birth of the Quints, the family was housed in a two-story, 19-room mansion at Callander, built for them near the old Dafoe Hospital. In that hospital the doctor who delivered the Quints, the late Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe, reared the children while they were under guardianship of the Ontario government. The Order of Jesus and Mary established the monastery in the old nursery building last October.

Now only Marie lives at home with her parents. Shy, quiet, she had begun a novitiate in a Quebec City convent but left it last July, shortly before Emilie's death. An older sister, Pauline, 22, and two sons, Victor, 17, and Claude, 8, also live at home. Another son, Olivia Jr., is with the Royal Canadian Air Force at St. Hubert, near Montreal.

It was Olivia Jr. who drove the three sisters to Callander for the reunion.

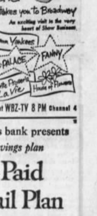
Papa Dionne said he hoped that now the girls could lead lives untroubled by public curiosity.

Voice of America Has New Program

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP)—Theodore C. Streibert, director of the United States Information Agency, announced today the Voice of America is initiating a new weekly radio program called "Foreign Policy Review."

The 15-minute broadcast, he said, features actual statements by top United States Government officials on foreign affairs. They are taken from news conferences and speeches by President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and others.

The first program, broadcast today, contained a recording by Dulles giving a general review of recent significant foreign policy developments.



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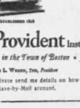

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